

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
BEAUMONT DIVISION**

No. 1:03CR145-4

United States of America

v.

James A. Godfrey

Defendant

**Report and Recommendation Re: Petition for Warrant
or Summons for Offender Under Supervision**

Pending is a “Petition for Warrant or Summons for Offender Under Supervision,” filed November 2, 2009, alleging that defendant violated conditions of supervised release. This matter is referred to the undersigned United States magistrate judge for review, hearing, and submission of a report with recommended findings of fact and conclusions of law. See United States v. Rodriguez, 23 F.3d 919, 920 n.1 (5th Cir. 1994); see also 18 U.S.C. § 3401(i) (2000); Local Rules for the Assignment of Duties to United States Magistrate Judges.

I. The Original Conviction and Sentence

Defendant was sentenced on March 16, 2004, before The Honorable Marcia A. Crone, U.S. District Judge of the Eastern District of Texas, after pleading guilty to the offense of possession with intent to distribute 5 grams or more but less than 50 grams cocaine base, a Class B felony. This offense carried a statutory maximum imprisonment term of 40 years. The guideline imprisonment range, based on a total offense level of 27 and a criminal history category of IV, was 100 to 125 months. Defendant was subsequently sentenced to 125 months imprisonment followed by 5 years supervised release subject to the standard conditions of release, plus special conditions: financial disclosure; defendant shall not consume any intoxicant that is not prescribed by a physician; drug aftercare; complete a GED; mental health treatment including anger management; and a \$100 special assessment.

II. The Period of Supervision

On October 21, 2009, defendant completed his period of imprisonment and began service of the supervision term.

III. The Petition

United States Probation filed the pending Petition for Warrant or Summons for Offender Under Supervision on November 2, 2009. The petition alleges that defendant violated the following conditions of release:

1. Mandatory Condition: Defendant shall not commit another federal, state, or local crime.
2. Mandatory Condition: Defendant shall not illegally possess a controlled substance.

3. Standard Condition: Defendant shall not frequent places where controlled substances are illegally sold, used, distributed, or administered.
4. Standard Condition: Defendant shall not associate with any persons engaged in criminal activity, and shall not associate with any person convicted of a felony unless granted permission to do so by the probation officer.

As grounds, the petition alleges that: 1. On or about October 27, 2009, defendant was arrested by DEA and charged with knowingly and intentionally conspiring to distribute and possess with intent to distribute a Schedule II controlled substance, namely cocaine base, in an amount of 50 grams or more. He is currently detained in the Jefferson County Jail in Beaumont, Texas. 2. On or about October 27, 2009, defendant illegally possessed crack cocaine, as indicated by an affidavit prepared by the DEA. The report indicated prior to defendant's arrest, he was observed to discard a plastic bag in a trash can contained within the yard area of the residence. An inspection of the plastic bag revealed approximately 345 grams of cocaine HCL. 3. On or about October 27, 2009, defendant and a codefendant, Jamar Dantrelle Ross, were arrested at defendant's reported address and cocaine HCL was found in the amount of 345 grams at his residence. 4. On or about October 27, 2009, defendant was arrested with Jamar Dantrelle Ross for knowingly and intentionally conspiring to distribute and possess with intent to distribute a Schedule II controlled substance, namely cocaine base, in an amount of 50 grams or more, at defendant's reported address.

IV. Proceedings

On May 19, 2011, the undersigned United States Magistrate Judge convened a hearing pursuant to Rule 32.1, Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure,

to hear evidence and argument on whether defendant violated conditions of supervised release, and the appropriate course of action for any such violations.

At the revocation hearing, counsel for the government and the defendant announced an agreement as to a recommended disposition. Defendant agreed to plead “true” to the allegation that he violated a standard condition of supervised release by associating with persons engaged in criminal activity without permission to do so by the probation officer. In exchange for defendant’s plea of “true,” the government agreed to decline to proceed with remaining alleged violations of supervised release conditions. Further, the parties agreed the court should revoke defendant’s supervised release and impose 6 months imprisonment, with no term of supervised release thereafter.

At the revocation hearing, defendant pled “true” to the allegation that he violated a standard condition of supervised release by associating with persons engaged in criminal activity without permission to do so by the probation officer.

V. Principles of Analysis

According to Title 18 U.S.C. § 3583(e)(3), the Court may revoke a term of supervised release and require the defendant to serve in prison all or part of the term of supervised release authorized by statute for the offense that resulted in such term of supervised release without credit for time previously served on post-release supervision, if the Court, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure applicable to revocation of probation or supervised release, finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant violated a condition of supervised release. The original offense of conviction was a Class B felony; therefore, the maximum term of imprisonment authorized under 18 U.S.C. § 3583(e)(3) is 3 years.

According to U.S.S.G. § 7B1.1(a), if the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that defendant violated a standard condition of supervised release by associating with persons engaged in criminal activity without permission to do so by the probation officer, defendant will be guilty of committing a Grade C violation. U.S.S.G. § 7B1.3(a)(2) indicates upon a finding of a Grade C violation, the court may (A) revoke probation or supervised release; or (B) extend the term of probation or supervised release and/or modify the conditions of supervision. U.S.S.G. § 7B1.4(a) provides that in defendant's case a revocation of supervised release based on a Grade C violation and a criminal history category of IV, the guideline imprisonment range is 6 to 12 months.

According to U.S.S.G § 7B1.3(f), any term of imprisonment imposed upon revocation of probation or supervised release shall be ordered to be served consecutively to any sentence of imprisonment that the defendant is serving, whether or not the sentence of imprisonment being served resulted from the conduct that is the basis of the revocation of probation or supervised release.

18 U.S.C. §§ 3583(e) and 3553(a) provide that in determining sentence, the court shall consider:

1. The nature and circumstance of the offense and the history and characteristics of the defendant; see 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(1);
2. The need for the sentence imposed to afford adequate deterrence to criminal conduct; to protect the public from further crimes of the defendant; and to provide the defendant with needed educational or vocational training, medical care, other corrective treatment in the most effective manner; see 18 U.S.C. §§ 3553 (a)(2)(B)-(D);
3. Applicable guidelines and policy statement issued by the Sentencing Commission, for the appropriate application of the provisions when modifying or revoking supervised release pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §

994(a)(3), that are in effect on the date the defendant is sentenced; see 18 U.S.C. 3553(a)(4); see also 28 U.S.C. § 924(A)(3);

4. Any pertinent policy statement issued by the Sentencing Commission, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 994(a)(2), that is in effect on the date the defendant is sentenced; see 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(5); and
5. The need to avoid unwarranted sentence disparities among defendants with similar records who have been found guilty of similar conduct; see 18 U.S.C. § 3553(A)(6).

VI. Application

Defendant pled “true” to the allegation that he violated a standard condition of supervised release by associating with persons engaged in criminal activity without permission to do so by the probation officer. Based upon defendant’s plea of “true” to the allegations and U.S.S.G. § 7B1.1(a), the undersigned finds that defendant violated conditions of supervised release.

The undersigned has carefully considered each of the five factors listed in 18 U.S.C. §§ 3583(e) and 3553(a). Defendant’s violation is a Grade C violation, and defendant's criminal history category is IV. Policy guidelines suggest 6 to 12 months imprisonment upon revocation. Defendant has demonstrated an inability to adhere to conditions of supervision. Defendant did not comply with the conditions of his supervision by associating with persons engaged in criminal activity without permission to do so by the probation officer. As such, incarceration appropriately addresses defendant’s violation. The sentencing objectives of punishment, deterrence and rehabilitation will best be served by a term of incarceration.

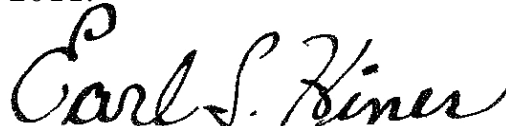
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The court should find that defendant violated a standard condition of supervised release, by associating with persons engaged in criminal activity without permission to do so by the probation officer, in the manner alleged in the petition.
2. The petition should be granted and defendant's supervised release should be revoked pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3565.
3. Defendant should be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 6 months to be served consecutively to any sentence of imprisonment that the defendant is serving.
4. Upon release of imprisonment, defendant should not be placed on supervised release.

OBJECTIONS

At the close of the revocation hearing, defendant, defense counsel, and counsel for the government each signed a standard form waiving their right to object to the proposed findings and recommendations contained in this report, consenting to revocation of supervised release as recommended herein, and consenting to the imposition of the above sentence recommended in this report. Defendant waived his right to be present and speak before the district judge imposes the recommended sentence. Therefore, the court may act on the report and recommendation immediately.

SIGNED this 23 day of May, 2011.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Earl S. Hines". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first letter "E" is large and loops around the "S". The last letter "s" is a simple cursive flourish.

Earl S. Hines
United States Magistrate Judge